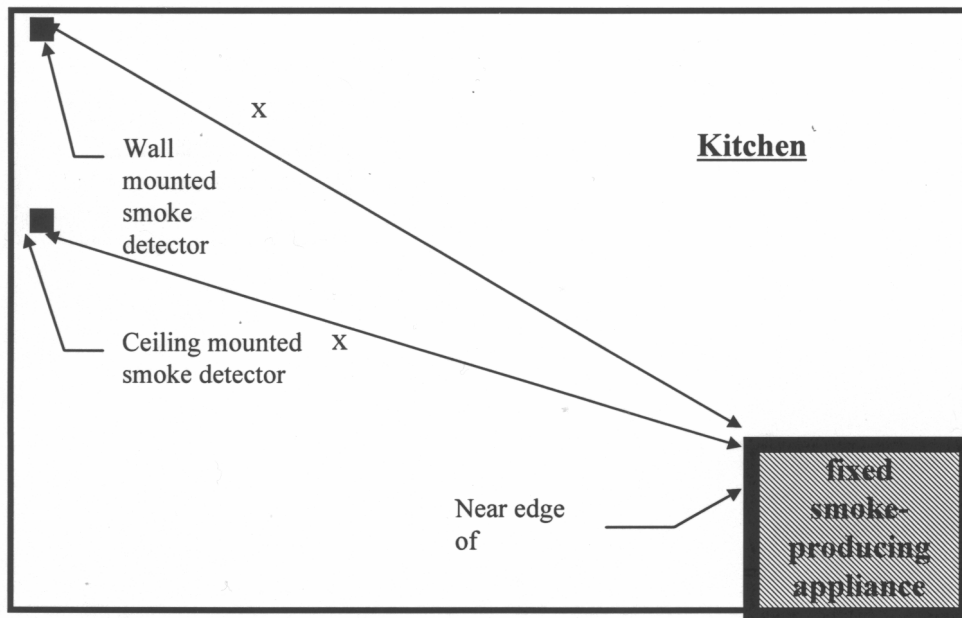


Section view of an “open plan” layout with the ceiling-mounted or wall-mounted smoke detector (?) shown on the left and the kitchen represented to the right.

If true length of “x” is less than or equal to 20 feet, then a photo electric smoke detector must be utilized. The true length of “x” is the actual distance from the centerline of the ceiling-mounted or wall-mounted smoke detector to the nearest edge of fixed, smoke-producing appliance.

780 CMR: STATE BOARD OF BUILDING REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS
THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE BUILDING CODE



Plan view of an “open plan” layout with the ceiling-mounted or wall-mounted smoke detector (?) shown on the left and the kitchen represented to the right.

If true length of “x” is less than or equal to 20 feet, then a photo electric smoke detector must be utilized. The true length of “x” is the actual distance from the centerline of the ceiling-mounted or wall-mounted smoke detector to the nearest edge of fixed, smoke-producing appliance.

Question 4: Are bedrooms now the only areas in which smoke detectors are required to be located?

Answer 4: No. 780 CMR 3603.16.10 defines all required smoke detector locations.

Question 5: 780 CMR 3603.16.7 titled “Secondary electric power” states that all household fire warning systems shall have secondary (standby) power supplied from monitored batteries in accordance with the household fire warning equipment requirements of NFPA 72. Does this mean that all smoke detector systems must have a battery room providing standby power?

Answer 5: No. Single and multiple station, hard-wired smoke detectors that are ac primary powered are now available with attached, replaceable battery and similar to battery-only single station smoke detectors, the battery is monitored via the detector circuitry.

For “alarm panel systems” (listed control unit with automatic detectors and occupant notification appliances), the monitored battery schemes tested and listed via the manufacturer’s compliance to NFPA 72, suffice.

Question 6: 780 CMR 3603.16.10 (5) states that fixed temperature heat detectors shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of 780 CMR 3603.16.4. Does this mean that as of March 1, 1998, heat detectors are required in one- and two-family dwellings controlled by the requirements of 780 CMR Chapter 36 of the Sixth Edition of the Code?

Answer 6: No. As of March 1, 1998, heat detectors are still not required by 780 CMR Chapter 36 of the Sixth Edition of the Code as 780 CMR 3603.16.4 is currently “RESERVED”, thus, at this time and until 780 CMR 3603.16.4 is otherwise amended, heat detectors are not required by Chapter 36 of the Sixth Edition of the Code.

Question 7: 780 CMR 3603.16.13 requires that an existing one- or two-family dwelling be provided with a household fire warning system for new construction when one or more sleeping rooms are added or created in the existing dwelling. What constitutes a *bedroom* under this Section?

Answer 7: The State Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS), as the Agency promulgating the Massachusetts State Building Code, is the “AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION” (AHJ) regarding the interpretation of regulations of the State Building Code and has determined that it is the responsibility of the building owner or the agent of the building owner to identify any new or newly created *bedrooms or other space USES*. If submitted plans and/or narratives that describe the work intended identify such new additions or newly created spaces as other than *bedrooms* then 780 CMR 3603.16.13 does not apply (note that it is the “REGULATED COMMUNITY” and not the “REGULATOR” who identifies, on plans and/or narratives submitted as part of the building permit application to the Building Department, if a *bedroom* is being added or created).

¹ Note that although NFPA 72-1996 is titled the “National Fire Alarm Code”, NFPA 72 is a national reference standard and where Massachusetts State Building Code regulations explicitly differ from the requirements set forth in the reference standard, the requirements of the State Building Code govern.